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17 April 1963

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Prop Activities in the United States Regarding Vietnam

1. In meeting with Mr. Francis J. McNamara, Staff Director of House Committee on Un-American Activities, at his request on Tuesday, 16 April, Mr. McNamara requested such information and assistance as the Agency might be able to provide for background for Committee use on the international aspects concerning a series of newspaper ads which appeared in the United States in March and upon which Hanoi radio commented one day prior to the first identified publication of the ad. Such information and assistance is desired for the background for hearings which are being prepared on this subject.

2. On March 13 a half-page ad concerning Vietnam signed by Corliss Lamont, Taylor Adams of East End Avenue, New York, among others appeared in the Washington Post. The ad also appeared in the West Coast edition of the New York Times (the date of this publication was not noted by the undersigned) and the New York Times newspaper on the second day after publication was resumed. The Committee has noted from [ ] that on March 12 and on other days subsequent that Hanoi radio commented on these ads and made mention about a letter by a North Vietnam organization forwarded to the American signers of the ad complimenting thereon, etc.

3. Mr. McNamara advises that at present in their scheduling of the hearing they hope to lead off with General Maxwell Taylor and Mr. Harriman to cover the topic of the importance of Viet Nam and of Southeast Asia and to use as witnesses Dick Crawford of Newsweek and Dilbie Sheppett(?) of National Geographic.

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Responded - on  
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4. It is Mr. McNamara's hope that due to the international aspects of this matter, the Agency might already be on top of it. I advised that I would check to see what information might be available for release to the committee, if any, and be back in touch with them during next week.

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Assistant Legislative Counsel

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cc: DD/P  
Attn: Chief, FE Division

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